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| APPLICATION NO.   | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/674,637  | 09/30/2003  | Nikhil Awasthi       | 3655/0300PUS1       | 4696             |
| 47827   | 7590        | 10/26/2007           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| MCGRATH, GEISSLER, OLDS & RICHARDSON, PLLC<br>PO BOX 1364<br>FAIRFAX, VA 22038-1364 |             |                      | GARY, ERIKA A       |                  |
|   |             |                      | ART UNIT:           | PAPER NUMBER     |
|   |             |                      | 2617                |                  |
|   |             |                      | MAIL DATE           | DELIVERY MODE    |
|   |             |                      | 10/26/2007          | PAPER            |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

|                              |                        |                     |  |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b> | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |  |
|                              | 10/674,637             | AWASTHI ET AL.      |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b>        | <b>Art Unit</b>     |  |
|                              | Erika A. Gary          | 2617                |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 6/11/07.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-2, 5-11, 14-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 3,4,12 and 13 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.                                     |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.                         |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Objections*

1. Claims 1 and 10 are objected to because of the following informalities: "the situation" should be "a situation". Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Amin et al., US Patent Number 5,995,830 (hereinafter Amin).

Regarding claims 1 and 10, Amin discloses a method for reconnecting a dropped telephone connection between a calling party and a called party, said telephone connection having been established by a telephone call having been initially placed by the calling party to a primary number of the called party through a telephony server, thereby establishing an inbound call from the calling party to the server and an outbound call from the server to the called party, said method comprising: monitoring by the server the status of the inbound call; monitoring by the server the status of the outbound call; detecting by the server the situation where the status of the inbound call is active and the status of the outbound call is dropped; and, attempting by the server to reestablish the telephone connection with the called party should said situation exceed

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a predetermined period of time [col. 2: lines 2-35; col. 4: lines 17-18, 45-52; col. 5: lines 1-2, 23-44; col. 6: lines 11-38].

Regarding claims 2 and 11, Amin discloses communicating a message to the calling party requesting verification that the telephone connection was unintentionally terminated; receiving said verification prior to said attempting step; and, terminating the inbound call in the event no verification is received in a fixed period of time [col. 6: lines 11-38].

Regarding claims 5 and 14, Amin discloses enabling and disabling the reconnect feature upon receipt of a command from the called party [col. 6: lines 11-38].

Regarding claims 6 and 15, Amin discloses periodically repeating said attempting step a fixed number of times or until the telephone connection is reestablished [col. 6: lines 25-38].

Regarding claims 7 and 16, Amin discloses granting the calling party access to a voice mailbox of the called party in the event the telephone connection is not reestablished after the fixed number of attempts were unsuccessful [col. 6: lines 11-38].

Regarding claims 8 and 17, Amin discloses the number of attempts and how often they occur are each settable parameters [col. 6: lines 20-28].

Regarding claims 9 and 18, Amin discloses receiving a command from the calling party to terminate the repeating step and thereby granting the calling party access to a voice mailbox of the called party [col. 6: lines 11-32].

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4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amin in view of Lin et al., US Patent Number 6,603,849 (hereinafter Lin).

Regarding claims 19 and 20, Lin discloses rerouting the incoming call to an auxiliary number assigned to the called party [abstract; col. 4: lines 25-44].

Amin and Lin are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, that is, re-directing failed calls. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Amin to include Lin. The rationale for this modification would have been to provide connection to an alternative number, other than a voicemail in order to try to connect to the called party.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

6. Claims 3, 4, 12, and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

### ***Response to Arguments***

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Jones, US Patent Number 6,430,284, discloses a system and method for redirecting control of in-band signaling.
  
9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).  
  
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.
  
10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Erika A. Gary whose telephone number is 571-272-7841. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Appiah can be reached on 571-272-7904. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

EAG  
October 22, 2007

  
ERIKKA GARY  
PRIMARY EXAMINER